

April 25, 2014

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

April 26, 2014

BISMARCK, ND – Tomorrow is national prescription drug “Take Back Day,” and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem encourages North Dakotans to “spring clean” their medicine cabinets and dispose of any unused or expired medications in the Take Back containers serving their local community. A list of North Dakota Take Back sites is available at www.takeback.nd.gov.

Over 1,000 pounds of OxyContin, Fentanyl, Prozac, and other controlled drugs were destroyed in a controlled burn last month, reported Stenehjem. The drugs were collected over just the past five months from the state’s Take Back program.

North Dakota was the first state in the nation to offer a year-round state-wide prescription drug disposal program. Since the Take Back program launched in December 2009, more than 6,600 pounds – or 3.3 tons – of unused medications have been collected and destroyed.

“Public support of this program has been overwhelming. Not only are we keeping these medications from being sold to our kids, but by disposing of the drugs properly instead of flushing them or putting them in the trash, we are protecting the state’s resources from potential contamination,” said Stenehjem.

In response to public demand, new Take Back sites are continually being added to the program. At a special Take Back event earlier today, Attorney General Stenehjem announced that the Cass County Sheriff’s office is now operating a new Take Back site at the Cass County Courthouse, 211 9th Street South in Fargo. Stenehjem also announced new Take Back sites for McLean and Emmons counties, opening in May. After those new sites open, the Take Back program will be available at 34 locations in 30 counties across the state, reaching over 90% of the state’s population.

Residents wishing to hold special “Take Back” events or request a permanent Take Back disposal site in their community should contact their local law enforcement agency.

More information about the state’s Take Back program is available on the “Prescription Drugs” link on the Attorney General’s website, www.ag.nd.gov.

###